



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6291.0.55.001 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Jun 2016

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Summary

Main Features

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) is released monthly. Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) includes data only collected in February, May, August and November (including industry and occupation).

Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

Insights from the Original Data

INSIGHTS FROM THE ORIGINAL DATA

SAMPLE COMPOSITION

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (or rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one rotation group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". This sample rotation is important in ensuring that seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, to ensure that changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than the sample. In addition, the replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

When considering movements in the original estimates, it is possible to decompose the sample into three components:

- the matched common sample (survey respondents who responded in both May and June);

- the unmatched common sample (respondents in June but who did not respond in May, or vice versa); and
- the incoming rotation group (who replaced respondents who rotated out in May).

The detailed decomposition of each of these movements is included in the data cube 'Insights From the Original Data'.

In considering the three components of the sample, it is important to remember that the matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents between May and June, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as a result of the groups representing a sample of different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and seeks to ensure that differences in characteristics of rotation groups do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are always designed to be representative of their respective months, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

INCOMING ROTATION GROUP

In original terms, the incoming rotation group in June 2016 had a lower Employment to Population ratio than the group it replaced (63.6% in May and 63.1% June 2016). The proportion of employed people who were employed full-time was also lower than the group it replaced (69.5% in May 2016 and 67.3% in June 2016).

The proportion of men employed full-time was lower in the incoming rotation group when compared to the group it replaced (82.5% in May 2016 and 80.1% in June 2016). The proportion of women employed full-time was also lower in the incoming rotation group when compared to the group it replaced (53.9% in May 2016 and 52.3% in June 2016).

The incoming rotation group had a less positive influence on employment in Queensland than the group it replaced last month, particularly full-time employment. The influence on employment in other States and Territories was similar to the group it replaced.

OUTGOING ROTATION GROUP

In looking ahead to the July 2016 estimates, when the outgoing rotation group rotated into sample 8 months ago, its influence on employment was markedly higher than was previously observed for this rotation group. The differences in employment influence are more pronounced in New South Wales and Victoria than other states. If the influence of this group reverts back to a level more consistent with previous levels, it may lead to a decrease in employment. However, it should be noted that a rotation group's relative influence can also change due to changes in the composition of the other rotation groups.

The outgoing rotation group in June 2016 had a higher employment to population ratio (62.1% in June 2016) compared to the sample as a whole (61.2% in June 2016).

In original terms, the unemployment rate for the outgoing rotation group in June 2016 was 4.5%, which was lower than the 5.6% for the whole sample. The participation rate for the

outgoing rotation group in June 2016 was 65.0%, slightly higher than the 64.8% for the whole sample.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TREND DATA

As the gross flows and rotation group data are presented in original terms they are not directly comparable to the seasonally adjusted and trend data discussed elsewhere in the commentary, and are included to provide additional information for the original data. Since the original data are unadjusted, they have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the trend series. The trend data provide the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market and are the focus of the commentary in this publication.

Changes in Forthcoming Issues

From the August 2016 issue of *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) the ABS will produce 12 month rolling average regional data to assist users in interpreting the underlying movements. The data will be available in Table 16b titled Labour force status by Labour market region (ASGS) and Sex, Annual averages of the previous twelve months, Year to September 1999 onwards. The original data for regional statistics will continue to be available in Table 16.

Article Archive

This section provides an archive of articles and analysis published in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), promoting the effective use of labour force statistics. Articles are sorted by publication date.

Articles on labour related topics are also available in *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0) and *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0).

Labour Force Survey Archive

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Annual Seasonal Re-analysis | March 2016 |
| Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey | February 2016 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | February 2016 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | January 2016 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | December 2015 |
| Measures of Underemployment and Underutilisation | November 2015 |
| Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review | November 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | November 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | October 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | September 2015 |
| Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey | August 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | July 2015 |
| Progress with recommendations from the Independent Technical Review | July 2015 |
| Assessing Volatility in the Labour Force Series | June 2015 |

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| What's New in the Labour Force | June 2015 |
| Update on Recommendations 10 and 11 from the Independent Technical Review | June 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | May 2015 |
| Update on Recommendation 7 from the Independent Technical Review | May 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | April 2015 |
| What's New in the Labour Force | March 2015 |
| Annual Seasonal Reanalysis | March 2015 |
| Update on Recommendations from the Independent Technical Review | March 2015 |
| What's new in the Labour Force | February 2015 |
| Online Collection in the Labour Force Survey | February 2015 |
| Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates | February 2015 |
| What's new in the Labour force | January 2015 |
| What's new in the Labour force | December 2014 |
| Independent Technical Review into the Labour Force Survey and ABS Response | November 2014 |
| What's new in the Labour force | November 2014 |
| Removing the effect of Supplementary Surveys from seasonally adjusted estimates | October 2014 |
| Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues | September 2014 |
| Changes in this and upcoming labour force issues | August 2014 |
| What's new in the Labour force | July 2014 |
| What's new in the Labour force | June 2014 |
| What's new in the Labour force | May 2014 |
| What's new in the Labour force | February 2014 |
| Rebenchmarking Labour Force Estimates to the 2011 Census of Population and Housing | January 2014 |
| What's new in the Labour force | December 2013 |
| Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics | December 2013 |
| What's new in the Labour Force | November 2013 |
| Understanding full-time/part-time status in the Labour Force Survey | September 2013 |
| What's new in the Labour Force | September 2013 |
| Fact sheet did you know - Underemployment | June 2013 |
| What's new in the Labour Force | June 2013 |
| New Labour Force Sample Design | May 2013 |
| Annual Seasonal Reanalysis | May 2013 |
| What's new in Labour Force | May 2013 |
| Transition to online collection of the Labour Force Survey | April 2013 |
| What's new in Labour Force | April 2013 |
| Estimating Jobs in the Australian Labour Market | February 2013 |
| Forthcoming improvements to the content of the Labour Force and Labour Supplementary Surveys | January 2013 |
| What's new in Labour Force | January 2013 |
| Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics | January 2013 |
| Rebenchmarking of Labour Force Series | November 2012 |
| Upcoming changes to the Labour Force Survey | July 2012 |
| Labour Household Surveys content review and the Labour Force Survey | June 2012 |
| Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia | May 2012 |
| ABS Response to recent concerns expressed about employment estimates | April 2012 |

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|--|---------------|
| Population Benchmarks and Labour Force Survey | April 2012 |
| Annual Seasonal Reanalysis | March 2012 |
| Exploring Labour Force Data on joblessness | February 2012 |
| Employment level estimates versus employment to population explained | January 2012 |
| Understanding the Australian Labour Force using ABS statistics | November 2011 |
| Historical Revisions | February 2011 |
| Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey | January 2011 |

About this Release

A range of Excel spreadsheets and SuperTABLE datacubes. The monthly spreadsheets contain broad level data covering all the major items of the Labour Force Survey in time series format, including seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. The monthly datacubes contain more detailed and cross classified original data than the spreadsheets.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

Data from the monthly Labour Force Survey are released in two stages. The Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) are part of the second release, and include detailed data not contained in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) product set, which is released one week earlier.

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Since these products are based on the same data as the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) publication, the 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia Explanatory Notes are relevant to both releases.

Time Series Spreadsheet (I-Note) - Time Series Spreadsheet

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10%

higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Due to the flooding in Queensland in January 2011, the relative standard errors for January 2011 will vary across regions and will be higher than normal in some regions. The RSEs for the Darling Downs-South West and Ipswich City Statistical Regions are expected to be approximately 50% higher, while the RSEs for the Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region will increase by approximately 25%. The Brisbane City Outer Ring, West Moreton and Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Regions will have RSEs approximately 10% higher. All other regions have minimal differences. However from February 2011, the data returns to normal. Refer to the article Impact of the floods on the Labour Force Survey in January 2011 for more information.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. See the article on page 10 of the May 2013 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) for more information. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

Standard Errors

Estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) are based on information collected from people in a sample of dwellings, rather than the entire population. Hence the estimates produced may differ from those that would have been produced if the entire population had been included in the survey. The most common measure of the likely difference (or 'sampling error') is the **standard error** (SE).

The ABS considers that estimates with a relative standard error of 25% or more may be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

To indicate those cells in spreadsheets with a relative standard error of 25% or more, annotations have been applied prior to dissemination.

In addition, the tables below have been supplied to show estimates at which the relative standard error is 25%. Estimates of the size indicated in the tables, or smaller, are considered to be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Due to the January 2011 flooding in Queensland the relative standard errors for January

2011 will be higher than normal in some regions, therefore for Queensland the estimates at which the relative standard error is 25% will be higher than they appear in the tables below. However from February, the data returns to normal.

The new labour force sample was phased-in over four months from May to August 2013. During phase in of the new sample, standard errors associated with key labour force data were expected to increase by approximately 10% at a national level, however increased standard errors and variability in the estimates may be more evident in detailed regional data during this time.

The RSEs for July 2013 (50% old sample, 50% new sample) and onwards will be subject to revisions in the future, as more information is known about the new sample after it has been introduced.

Additional information on how standard errors for LFS estimates are produced is available in Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

| State | NSW | Vic | Qld | SA | WA | Tas | NT | ACT | Aust |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Employed | | | | | | | | | |
| Feb-78 — Sep-82 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 4.5 |
| Oct-82 — Aug-87 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 3.5 |
| Sep-87 — Feb-89 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 4.0 |
| Mar-89 — Aug-92 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 3.5 |
| Sep-92 — Aug-97 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| Sep-97 — Sep-98 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 4.4 |
| Oct-98 — Feb-03 | 5.9 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.9 | 5.5 |
| Mar-03 — Oct-07 | 6.3 | 3.0 | 4.4 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 6.6 |
| Nov-07 | 6.2 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 6.4 |
| Dec-07 | 6.1 | 3.4 | 4.3 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 6.2 |
| Jan-08 | 6.0 | 3.6 | 4.2 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 6.0 |
| Feb-08 | 5.9 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 5.9 |
| Mar-08 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 5.7 |
| Apr-08 | 5.8 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 5.6 |
| May-08 | 5.7 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 5.4 |
| Jun-08 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 5.3 |
| Jul-08 — Aug-09 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 7.4 |
| Sep-09 | 6.5 | 5.8 | 5.0 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 7.0 |
| Oct-09 | 6.1 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 2.8 | 3.6 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 6.5 |
| Nov-09 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 4.5 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 6.2 |
| Dec-09 — Jun-13 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 5.8 |
| Jul-13 — Jan-14 | 7.7 | 3.8 | 5.5 | 2.7 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 7.8 |
| Feb-14 onwards | 7.9 | 3.9 | 5.6 | 2.7 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 7.9 |
| Unemployed | | | | | | | | | |
| Feb-78 — Sep-82 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 4.5 |
| Oct-82 — Aug-87 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 3.5 |
| Sep-87 — Feb-89 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 4.0 |
| Mar-89 — Aug-92 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 3.5 |
| Sep-92 — Aug-97 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| Sep-97 — Sep-98 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 4.4 |
| Oct-98 — Feb-03 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 4.5 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 1.3 | 3.2 | 1.4 | 4.9 |
| Mar-03 — Oct-07 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 4.9 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 5.2 |
| Nov-07 | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.0 | 2.9 | 3.7 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 5.2 |
| Dec-07 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 2.9 | 3.8 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 5.2 |

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|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Jan-08 | 6.3 | 5.6 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 5.2 |
| Feb-08 | 6.4 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 3.0 | 4.1 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 5.1 |
| Mar-08 | 6.7 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 3.1 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 5.1 |
| Apr-08 | 6.8 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 3.2 | 4.6 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 5.2 |
| May-08 | 6.9 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 3.3 | 4.8 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 5.1 |
| Jun-08 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 5.1 |
| Jul-08 — Aug-09 | 9.3 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 4.4 | 6.6 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 7.3 |
| Sep-09 | 8.7 | 7.5 | 6.8 | 4.1 | 6.1 | 2.4 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 6.8 |
| Oct-09 | 8.1 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 3.8 | 5.7 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.4 | 6.4 |
| Nov-09 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 6.0 | 3.5 | 5.3 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 2.2 | 6.0 |
| Dec-09 — Jun-13 | 7.1 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 5.7 |
| Jul-13 — Jan-14 | 7.3 | 6.6 | 8.4 | 3.7 | 5.8 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 7.1 |
| Feb-14 onwards | 7.4 | 6.7 | 8.6 | 3.8 | 5.9 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 7.3 |

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|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Feb-78 — Sep-82 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 4.5 |
| Oct-82 — Aug-87 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 3.5 |
| Sep-87 — Feb-89 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 4.0 |
| Mar-89 — Aug-92 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 1.4 | 3.5 |
| Sep-92 — Aug-97 | 5.3 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 2.4 | 2.9 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| Sep-97 — Sep-98 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 4.4 |
| Oct-98 — Feb-03 | 6.4 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 6.0 |
| Mar-03 — Oct-07 | 7.8 | 3.7 | 5.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 7.3 |
| Nov-07 | 7.6 | 3.9 | 5.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 7.0 |
| Dec-07 | 7.4 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 6.8 |
| Jan-08 | 7.3 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 6.6 |
| Feb-08 | 7.1 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 6.3 |
| Mar-08 | 7.1 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 3.1 | 3.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 6.2 |
| Apr-08 | 7.0 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 3.2 | 3.9 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 6.0 |
| May-08 | 6.8 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 4.0 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 5.8 |
| Jun-08 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 5.6 |
| Jul-08 — Aug-09 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 2.0 | 8.0 |
| Sep-09 | 7.8 | 7.2 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 4.9 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.9 | 7.4 |
| Oct-09 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 6.9 |
| Nov-09 | 6.9 | 6.4 | 5.4 | 3.3 | 4.4 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 6.5 |
| Dec-09 — Jun-13 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 6.2 |
| Jul-13 — Jan-14 | 8.4 | 4.4 | 9.8 | 3.6 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 9.0 |
| Feb-14 onwards | 8.5 | 4.5 | 9.9 | 3.7 | 4.6 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 9.1 |

| Greater Capital City Statistical Areas | Feb-78 — Sep-82 | Oct-82 — Aug-87 | Sep-87 — Feb-89 | Mar-89 — Aug-92 | Sep-92 — Aug-97 | Sep-97 — Oct-98 Sep-98 | Oct-98 — Feb-03 |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Greater Sydney | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| Rest of NSW | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 5.8 |
| Greater Melbourne | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 3.3 |
| Rest of Victoria | 4.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 3.2 |
| Greater Brisbane | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| Rest of Queensland | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 4.3 | 3.6 |
| Greater Adelaide | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Rest of South Australia | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| Greater Perth | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.3 |
| Rest of Western Australia | 2.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.2 |
| Greater Hobart | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 0.9 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Rest of Tasmania | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| | Mar-03 | Mar-08 | Jul-08 | Nov-09 | Jul-13 | Feb-14 | |
| | — | — | Oct-09 | — | Jan-14 | onwards | |
| | Feb-08 | Jun-08 | | Jun-13 | | | |
| Greater Sydney | 6.5 | 5.7 | 7.1 | 5.7 | 7.6 | 7.7 | |
| Rest of NSW | 6.4 | 5.6 | 7.0 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 7.6 | |
| Greater Melbourne | 3.2 | 5.1 | 6.4 | 5.1 | 4.0 | 4.0 | |
| Rest of Victoria | 3.1 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 3.9 | |
| Greater Brisbane | 4.1 | 4.0 | 5.0 | 4.0 | 5.9 | 6.0 | |
| Rest of Queensland | 4.4 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 4.3 | 6.3 | 6.4 | |
| Greater Adelaide | 2.5 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.0 | |
| Rest of South Australia | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.8 | |
| Greater Perth | 2.6 | 3.5 | 4.3 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 | |
| Rest of Western Australia | 2.5 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.8 | |
| Greater Hobart | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.3 | |
| Rest of Tasmania | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.5 | |
| Statistical Area Level 4 Regions | 4 Oct-98 | Mar-03 | Mar-08 | Jul-08 | Nov-09 | Jul-13 | Feb-14 onwards |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — | |
| | Feb-03 | Feb-08 | Jun-08 | Oct-09 | Jun-13 | Jan-14 | |
| Central Coast | 7.4 | 8.5 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 10.4 |
| Sydney - Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury | 7.2 | 8.3 | 7.0 | 9.2 | 7.0 | 10.0 | 10.2 |
| Sydney - Blacktown | 7.3 | 8.3 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 10.0 | 10.2 |
| Sydney - City and Inner South | 8.5 | 9.7 | 8.3 | 10.8 | 8.3 | 11.7 | 11.9 |
| Sydney - Eastern Suburbs | 9.6 | 11.0 | 9.3 | 12.2 | 9.3 | 13.1 | 13.4 |
| Sydney - Inner South West | 7.3 | 8.4 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| Sydney - Inner West | 7.7 | 8.8 | 7.5 | 9.8 | 7.5 | 10.6 | 10.8 |
| Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby | 7.6 | 8.6 | 7.3 | 9.6 | 7.3 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| Sydney - Northern Beaches | 7.8 | 8.9 | 7.6 | 9.9 | 7.6 | 10.7 | 10.9 |
| Sydney - Outer South West | 7.3 | 8.4 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| Sydney - Outer West and Blue Mountains | 7.3 | 8.3 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 7.1 | 10.0 | 10.2 |
| Sydney - Parramatta | 7.8 | 8.9 | 7.6 | 10.0 | 7.6 | 10.8 | 11.0 |
| Sydney - Ryde | 7.7 | 8.8 | 7.5 | 9.8 | 7.5 | 10.6 | 10.8 |
| Sydney - South West | 7.5 | 8.6 | 7.3 | 9.6 | 7.3 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| Sydney - Sutherland | 7.4 | 8.4 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 7.2 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| Capital Region | 7.2 | 8.2 | 7.0 | 9.2 | 7.0 | 9.9 | 10.1 |
| Central West | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 |
| Coffs Harbour - Grafton | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 |
| Far West and Orana | 7.4 | 8.4 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 7.2 | 10.1 | 10.3 |
| Hunter Valley exc Newcastle | 7.1 | 8.1 | 6.9 | 9.0 | 6.9 | 9.8 | 10.0 |
| Illawarra | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 |
| Mid North Coast | 7.5 | 8.6 | 7.3 | 9.6 | 7.3 | 10.3 | 10.6 |
| Murray | 7.6 | 8.6 | 7.4 | 9.6 | 7.4 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| New England and North West | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 |

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|-----------------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|
| Newcastle and Lake Macquarie | 7.1 | 8.1 | 6.9 | 9.0 | 6.9 | 9.8 | 9.9 |
| Richmond - Tweed | 7.6 | 8.7 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 10.5 | 10.7 |
| Riverina | 7.6 | 8.6 | 7.4 | 9.6 | 7.4 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven | 9.0 | 10.3 | 8.7 | 11.4 | 8.7 | 12.3 | 12.6 |
| Melbourne - Inner | 4.1 | 3.9 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 7.2 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| Melbourne - Inner East | 3.6 | 3.4 | 6.2 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 4.5 | 4.6 |
| Melbourne - Inner South | 3.7 | 3.5 | 6.4 | 8.4 | 6.4 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| Melbourne - North East | 3.8 | 3.6 | 6.6 | 8.6 | 6.6 | 4.8 | 4.9 |
| Melbourne - North West | 3.7 | 3.6 | 6.5 | 8.6 | 6.5 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| Melbourne - Outer East | 3.8 | 3.6 | 6.6 | 8.7 | 6.6 | 4.8 | 4.9 |
| Melbourne - South East | 3.6 | 3.4 | 6.3 | 8.3 | 6.3 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| Melbourne - West | 3.5 | 3.4 | 6.1 | 8.1 | 6.1 | 4.4 | 4.5 |
| Mornington Peninsula | 3.6 | 3.5 | 6.4 | 8.3 | 6.4 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| Ballarat | 4.0 | 3.8 | 6.9 | 9.1 | 6.9 | 5.0 | 5.1 |
| Bendigo | 3.8 | 3.7 | 6.7 | 8.8 | 6.7 | 4.9 | 5.0 |
| Geelong | 3.7 | 3.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| Hume | 4.3 | 4.1 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Latrobe - Gippsland | 4.1 | 3.9 | 7.2 | 9.4 | 7.2 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| North West | 3.9 | 3.7 | 6.8 | 8.9 | 6.8 | 4.9 | 5.0 |
| Shepparton | 4.3 | 4.1 | 7.4 | 9.7 | 7.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Warrnambool and South West | 3.7 | 3.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 4.7 | 4.8 |
| Brisbane - East | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 5.1 | 8.1 | 8.2 |
| Brisbane - North | 4.1 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 5.1 | 8.1 | 8.3 |
| Brisbane - South | 4.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 8.2 | 8.4 |
| Brisbane - West | 4.1 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 5.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 |
| Brisbane Inner City | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 6.9 | 5.3 | 8.4 | 8.6 |
| Ipswich | 4.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 7.9 | 8.1 |
| Logan - Beaudesert | 4.3 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 7.0 | 5.3 | 8.4 | 8.6 |
| Moreton Bay - North | 3.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 6.4 | 4.8 | 7.7 | 7.9 |
| Moreton Bay - South | 3.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 6.3 | 4.8 | 7.7 | 7.9 |
| Cairns | 4.9 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 8.0 | 6.1 | 9.7 | 9.9 |
| Darling Downs - Maranoa | 4.6 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 7.5 | 5.7 | 9.1 | 9.3 |
| Fitzroy | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 6.9 | 5.2 | 8.3 | 8.5 |
| Gold Coast | 4.3 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 7.1 | 5.4 | 8.6 | 8.7 |
| Mackay | 4.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 6.9 | 5.2 | 8.3 | 8.5 |
| Queensland - Outback | 4.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 7.6 | 5.8 | 9.2 | 9.4 |
| Sunshine Coast | 4.3 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 7.0 | 5.3 | 8.5 | 8.7 |
| Toowoomba | 4.6 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 7.5 | 5.7 | 9.0 | 9.2 |
| Townsville | 4.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 7.6 | 5.8 | 9.2 | 9.4 |
| Wide Bay | 4.6 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 7.5 | 5.7 | 9.0 | 9.2 |
| Adelaide - Central and Hills | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Adelaide - North | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Adelaide - South | 3.4 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.9 |
| Adelaide - West | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Barossa - Yorke - Mid North | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| South Australia - Outback | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 4.2 |

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|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| South Australia - South East | 3.1 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Mandurah | 2.4 | 2.8 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| Perth - Inner | 3.1 | 3.5 | 4.9 | 6.5 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 |
| Perth - North East | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 6.1 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Perth - North West | 2.8 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.3 |
| Perth - South East | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.7 | 6.1 | 4.7 | 5.5 | 5.6 |
| Perth - South West | 2.7 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 4.3 | 5.0 | 5.1 |
| Bunbury | 2.4 | 2.8 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 4.0 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| Western Australia - Outback | 2.8 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 6.0 | 4.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| Western Australia - Wheat Belt | 2.6 | 3.0 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 4.2 | 4.9 | 5.0 |
| Greater Hobart | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Launceston and North East | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| Tasmania - South East | 1.6 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Tasmania - West and North West | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Darwin | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| Northern Territory - Outback | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 |

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Labour Force statistics are compiled from the Labour Force Survey which is conducted each month throughout Australia as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) household survey program. For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The Labour Force Survey provides monthly information about the labour market activity of Australia's resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The Labour Force Survey is designed to primarily provide estimates of employment and unemployment for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Survey enumeration begins on the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of the month, except for the Christmas and New Year holiday period. In December enumerations starts between the 3rd and 9th (4 weeks after November enumeration begins). In January enumeration starts between the 7th and 13th (5 weeks after December enumeration begins).

Key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are published in two stages. The first, *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), is released 39 days after the commencement of enumeration for the month, with the exception of estimates for December which are published 46 days after the commencement of enumeration.

The second stage includes detailed data that were not part of the first stage and are published in *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) and *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003). The second stage is released 7 days after the first stage.

ACCURACY

The Labour Force Survey is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 26,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.32% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The Labour Force Survey is designed primarily to provide estimates of key labour force statistics for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey. The Labour Force Survey receives a high level of cooperation, with an average response rate for the last year being 93%.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

Standard errors of key estimates and movements since the previous month are available in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). The standard error of other estimates and movements may be calculated by using the spreadsheet contained in *Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, Data Cube* (cat. no. 6298.0.55.001).

COHERENCE

The ABS has been conducting the Labour Force Survey each month since February 1978. While seeking to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey, sound survey practice requires careful and continuing maintenance and development to maintain the integrity of the data and the efficiency of the collection.

The changes which have been made to the Labour Force Survey have included changes in sampling methods, estimation methods, concepts, data item definitions, classifications, and time series analysis techniques. In introducing these changes the ABS has generally revised

previous estimates to ensure consistency and coherence with current estimates. For a full list of changes made to the Labour Force Survey see Chapter 20 in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

INTERPRETABILITY

The key estimates from the Labour Force Survey are available as original, seasonally adjusted and trend series. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular influences which may be present and therefore month-to-month movements may not be reliable indicators of underlying behaviour. To assist in interpreting the underlying behaviour, the ABS produces the trend series by smoothing the seasonally adjusted series to reduce the impact of the irregular component. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trends* (cat. no. 1349.0).

Further information on the terminology and other technical aspects associated with statistics from the Labour Force Survey can be found in the publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), which contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Standard Error information and a Glossary.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please see the Related Information tab for the list of products that are available from this collection.